

## BOERS MAKING A FIERCE ATTACK.

### GLOOM IN BRITAIN.

Effect of Reverses and of Fears for Ladysmith—Intimated That Joubert's Siege May Be Successful.

The week opens with only fresh additions to the disasters that have befallen British arms, and there is no longer any sustaining confidence to buoy up public opinion. The editorials this morning fully reflect the extreme gravity of the situation, with a painful undercurrent of ominous forebodings, mainly caused by the fact that, while the Boers have now changed their tactics and assumed the offensive, Gen. Buller is apparently unable to do more to assist Gen. White than in making a demonstration.

Little doubt remains as to the meaning of the Boer attack. A dispatch from the Boer camp at Colenso, dated Thursday last, sent by way of Lourenzo Marques, mentions that a thunder storm had turned the dry ravines into torrents and flooded the Tugela. Doubtless General Joubert felt sure he had secured a couple of days in which he could attack Ladysmith without fear of interference from General Buller, who, even if he decided to attempt to relieve the town, would probably occupy three days in reaching it by even a victorious advance.

Great Britain has to face the terrible possibility that the next news will be the fall of Ladysmith. The disquieting feature is that the Boers seem to have had sufficient force to deter General Buller from attacking, while themselves making strenuous efforts to reduce the town.

In the presence of this ominous situation, even General French's disaster, of which apparently the worst has not yet been heard, assumes quite minor importance in the eyes of the public.

The war office has already decided upon immediate steps for sending the Eighth infantry division to South Africa. Some of the regiments for this division will be taken from Gibraltar and Malta. They will be replaced by militia.

It is asserted that the customs authorities on the river Thames have detained two outgoing steamers and seized two large guns and six Maxim's, packed in piano cases, intended for the Transvaal. It is also said that a quantity of foodstuffs on another vessel have been seized.

"Saturday's bombardment of Ladysmith was the heaviest yet recorded. All the heavy guns were working and the Boers seemed to be pouring in shells from every available lighter gun."

The war office publishes the following dispatch from Gen. Forester Walker, commanding at Cape Town: "Gen. French reports under date of January 6: 'The situation is much the same as yesterday, but I regret to report that a serious accident has happened to the First battalion of the Suffolk regiment.'"

The Boers attacked Gen. Gatacre's position at Molteno with great energy Wednesday morning, and at last reports a brisk engagement was in progress. Molteno is the town to which Gen. Gatacre retired after his recent defeat at Stormberg.

There was brisk fighting Tuesday in the hills around Colesburg. The Boers stubbornly resisted the British at every point, but gradually retreated. The British held the extreme position to the south and east, overlooking the town.

An unexpected development of the situation at Colesburg has occurred. Late advances are that the Boers returned with reinforcements during the night and occupied the position from which they were driven by Gen. French.

### Boer Recruits Enlist.

Recruiting for the Boer Red Cross service goes on daily in New York. Gustav Simon, who is directing the movement and whose headquarters are a cigar stand, said that when he advertised for nurses a week ago to enter the Boer service he received about 500 applications in one day, and that applications were coming in on an average of 50 a day. About 1,000 men and women, the majority men, had gone from New York recently to South Africa. Simon said that he had now about 900 applications on hand. He remarked that he did not wish to violate the neutrality laws and he did not desire to say anything about the possibility of the Red Cross recruits joining the Boer military service, as he had nothing to do with that.

### Chicago Canal Open.

Tuesday morning the last 15 feet of earth separating the collateral drainage canal of Chicago from the main canal that empties into the Desplaines river and through it into the Illinois and Mississippi rivers, were knocked away and the immense system was put into operation. This has been laid the foundation of a mammoth ship canal connecting the Great Lakes with the Mississippi river and the Gulf, and saving the sanitary district of Chicago and the Federal government the great expense that would in the future be necessary in rock excavation and blasting under the flowing water. The canal, if confined to the single requirement of disposing of Chicago's sewage, could have been constructed for \$12,000,000, to \$14,000,000, so the sanitary district can justly claim to have expended at least \$20,000,000 in the direction of the great navigable waterway, the entire cost of the work thus far having been \$33,000,000.

### AT THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

At the close of business December 30, the public debt, less cash in the treasury, amounted to \$1,134,100,007, a decrease for the month of \$5,791,824, which is largely accounted for by the purchase of bonds.

Government receipts exceeded expenditures by \$7,613,545 during the month of December. The surplus for six months was \$21,026,934, against a deficit for the corresponding period of 1898 of \$8,719,422.

Captain Sizbee, the hero of the Maine, and who will take charge of the Naval Intelligence Bureau on February 1, has purchased a house in Washington which will soon be occupied by the Sizbee family.

The total coinage at the mints during 1899 was \$139,243,191, as follows: Gold, \$111,244,220; silver, \$25,055,519; minor coins, \$2,943,452.

## LATEST NEWS NOTES.

The Lawton fund to date amounts to \$48,433.32.

Pope Leo has indicated Cardinal Gotti as his successor.

The Union National Bank, of Rahway, N. J., has suspended.

The Wagner palace car interests have been absorbed by the Pullman Company.

Senator Vest, of Missouri, says this term will bring his public life to a close.

Over 7,000 men are engaged in harvesting 12-inch ice in the vicinity of Chicago.

Allegheny, Pa., Carnegie library, received a \$100 New Year's gift from its founder.

Cripple Creek's gold output for the year just closed was 422,805 tons, worth \$20,000,000.

Philadelphia is to have a \$2,000,000 hotel. The structure will have 350 guest rooms.

The Montezuma Lead Company, capital \$1,000,000, is ready to operate in New Mexico.

A statue of Vice President Hobart will be erected at Paterson, N. J., at a cost of \$15,000.

Indications are that Carnegie, the iron and steel magnate, will enter the Alabama iron field.

Senator Hoar, of Massachusetts, says that State constitutions cut no figure as to senatorship.

Andrew Carnegie has given Cheyenne, Wyo., \$50,000 with which to construct a free library.

Joseph P. Dickey, of Greenville, has been appointed mercantile appraiser for Mercer county, Pa.

The Irish societies of Philadelphia, Pa., are endeavoring to raise \$700,000 to equip a hospital ship.

Companies A, B, C, D, I, K, L and M, of the Fifteenth Infantry, are homebound from Cuba.

While trying to mount his horse, Richard Croker was thrown backward and had his leg broken.

A mad dog in a Pittsburg, Pa., cafe, New Year's, succeeded in biting six persons before it was killed.

During December 2,400,000 stamps were sold at the Pittsburg postoffice. This breaks the record.

On account of the great demand for green coffee, that article has advanced one-half cent per pound.

Senator Harold, of Kentucky, declares he was offered \$4,500 to stay out of the Goebel caucus.

President Kruger has consented to the sending of an American military observer to the Boer armies.

The American Electric Vehicle Company, with a capital of \$5,000,000, has been licensed in New Jersey.

William Johnston, a gas expert, was asphyxiated Saturday while repairing a regulator at Youngstown, O.

The annual financial report of the Pittsburg Stock Exchange shows a cash balance in bank of \$8,109,031.

The paying teller of the Fidelity Trust and Guarantee Company, of Buffalo, N. Y., gets away with \$48,000.

Indemnification has been demanded for recent seizure of American cargoes in Delagoa Bay by the English.

Preparations are being made by the Pennsylvania Railroad Company for its new passenger depot at Pittsburg.

A lamp explosion at Johnstown, Pa., Thursday evening, destroys a house and ten inmates are seriously burned.

Jones & Laughlins have decided to spend \$2,500,000 on the construction of a modern steel plant at Pittsburg, Pa.

Eight hundred bodies have been recovered from the ruins caused by the earthquake in the district of Tiflis, Russia.

Andrew Carnegie has promised the college at Emporia, Kan., \$50,000 to a library as soon as the present debt is paid.

No trace has been discovered of 14-year-old Hattie Hall, who disappeared from her home at Utica, O., Christmas night.

The British-American Furniture Company has been organized at Toronto, Can., with a capitalization of \$3,000,000.

It is stated that General Otis does not wish to capture Aguinaldo for fear the rebel chieftain might prove a "white elephant."

Professor Charles H. Schwartz, founder of Bethlehem Academy for Boys, died Saturday night at Bethlehem, Pa., aged 69 years.

A donation of \$300,000 has been given by Carnegie to Cooper Union, New York, with which to found a Mechanics Art school.

While attending a funeral Wednesday, Miss Kryder, of Bellefonte, Pa., was badly burned by her celluloid collar catching fire.

Governor Roosevelt will soon present plans to the New York Legislature for a lake-to-ocean canal that is estimated to cost \$60,000,000.

The Calivada Colonization Company, in which over 200 Pittsburg families are financially interested, has gone into the hands of a receiver.

J. F. Creenan, manager of the Topeka, Kan., branch of the Standard Oil Company, was run over and killed by an engine in that city.

H. H. Warner, formerly a well-known patent medicine manufacturer, of Rochester, N. Y., has failed. Liabilities, \$2,319,027; no assets.

By continuing the war tax it is estimated that by June 30, the end of the fiscal year, there will be a surplus in the U. S. treasury of fully \$60,000,000.

The Wisconsin Central Railroad Company lost \$100,000 Saturday night by a train of 28 loaded cars going through a trestle and being destroyed by fire.

The board of education of Chicago has excluded from the public schools of that city all histories of England which refer to that nation as a "mother country."

The National Dairy Union is urging the passage of the Groul bill now pending before Congress. This bill provides for an increase of 10 cents a pound on colored butterine.

W. M. Harrison, of Allegheny, Pa., proposes to build a railroad from the Atlantic to the Pacific by contributions of workmen, who are asked to subscribe \$2 apiece for a "stock bond."

## WILL OBSERVE NEUTRALITY LAWS.

### HIBERNIANS LOYAL.

They Desire to Assist the Boers—All They Ask is That Uncle Sam Side With the Boers.

The National officers of the Ancient Order of Hibernians met in Washington, D. C., Sunday, and issued the following statement:

"The National officers met to discuss a demand on the part of a large majority of the representatives of our 150,000 members that the order render some assistance to the Boers in the Transvaal. It was agreed to render no assistance compatible with our loyalty as American citizens and which would not interfere with the neutrality laws of the United States. We are impressed with the splendid precedent shown by the Republic in going to war with Spain to free Cuba from the oppression of that country. We believe that American sympathy is with the Boers, and that we are acting in accord with the principles which urged the United States to carry the flag in a struggle for the liberation of the gallant Cuban. Our people would flock to the armies of America if the government marched to assistance of the South Africans. It is unnecessary for the Hibernians to proclaim their loyalty to the United States, but it becomes them to state their own views on the subject of the laws. Knowing the character of the British government, its cruelty, its ambition, we are desirous to assist the citizens of a sister republic in their struggle to defeat English aggression. What kind of aid will be given we can not state at the present time, but it certainly will be of a practical nature and acceptable to the Boer government.

"Were this nation the antagonist of England, we could from our ranks send 15 to 20 regiments of the best fighting material the world ever saw. In fact, in any just cause in which the United States may see fit to draw the sword, the society would regard as it did in the former wars. The Irish regiments of Illinois, Michigan, Massachusetts and New York were largely recruited from our ranks, and in some of the regiments of the United States recently sent to the front are divisions of the A. O. H., duly affiliated with the parent order in this country. The order at large are hopeful that the government will yet rise to the wishes and hopes of the Irish-Americans and extend to the brave Boer the sympathy France gave to the country in '76."

The resolutions are signed by John T. Keating, national president; James E. Dolan, national vice-president; P. T. Morgan, national treasurer, Washington; James A. Sullivan, national secretary, Philadelphia; P. J. O'Connor, Georgia; P. K. O'Neill, Philadelphia; E. J. Slattery, Massachusetts; Rev. M. J. Byrne, Indiana, national directors.

### Francis Makes a Bluff

The French government has called the commandant of the naval squadron in the Atlantic to proceed immediately to Santo Domingo. This order grows out of the feeling in Santo Domingo against the action of the French consul in pressing the Boismaire-Caccavelli claim of 280,000 francs. In accordance with the treaty concluded in 1806, between President Heucreux and the French minister to Hayti, the government of Santo Domingo agreed to turn over to the French consul a monthly indemnity in repayment for services rendered and damages sustained by families of French citizens who had been assassinated. In default of payment the treaty stipulated that action might be taken against the improvement company having the concession to collect the revenues of the island. Since the assassination of President Heucreux the indemnity has been withheld, but, on account of the disturbances following his death, France made no immediate demand for payment. As more than six months have passed without action and Santo Domingo showing bad faith in the execution of the obligations, the French consul received an order to place an embargo on the revenues of the improvement company. The execution of the order provoked disturbances, which the government of Santo Domingo has not attempted to suppress, and serious insults have been offered to France and the consulate.

Peter Dinke, accused of murdering May Holwiler at Franklin, O., in 1886, was arrested at Herpeck, Ind.

### Kentucky Bloodshed.

In a general fight on Otter creek, Clay county, Ky., "Lighe" Lewis and Gen. May were shot and killed and four other participants seriously wounded. The fight occurred at a school house, where one of the Jacksons was on trial before a magistrate for killing another Jackson. The fight was started soon after the trial began and court was adjourned and the fight carried on in the school house and yard. Four of the men were taken to Manchester Saturday night and placed in jail. "Lighe" Lewis, one of the men killed, is a brother of ex-Sheriff "Joe" Lewis, of Clay county.

### Slaves Freed in Guam.

A naval officer who has arrived in Manila from Guam brings a proclamation issued by Capt. Leary, naval governor of that island, decreeing the absolute prohibition and total abolition of slavery or peonage, the order taking effect February 22. The prologue of the proclamation declares that the Spanish system of peonage, amounting to slavery, is a menace to popular liberty and a violation of the privileges guaranteed by the American constitution. Capt. Leary also deported all the Spanish priests for reasons sufficient to him.

### ABLE FLASHES

Lord Salisbury, the English premier, will resign at the close of the Transvaal war.

It is said that John Churchill, younger brother of Winston Churchill, will accompany the Duke of Marlborough to the seat of war.

An earthquake, Tuesday, destroyed ten villages in the Aichalkalka district of the Government of Tiflis.

The British public revenue for the nine months ending December, reaches £82,777,044, as against £78,140,468 for the corresponding period of 1892.

## GEN. MASO'S TRIBUTE TO GEN. WOOD.

Cubans of All Shades of Political Opinion Get Together at a Banquet.

The dinner given at Havana in honor of Gen. Maso, Saturday evening, at the Tacón theatre, was a great success. Gens. Wood, Ludlow and Chaffe were present, as was also Gen. Gomez, Senor Govin, the former autonomist leader, Senor Zayas and others spoke. Govin was loudly cheered. At this banquet for the first time since the American occupation began Cubans of all shades of political opinion came together for social purposes. Gen. Maso, in responding to a toast to his health, said:

"The cause of Cuba Libre was never brighter than now. President McKinley, in sending Gen. Wood, chose the only man to whom the confidence of all classes of Cubans could be given. It was Gen. Wood who, when a former governor, told President McKinley that it would be dangerous to remove a single American soldier from the island, urged the reduction of the military in his own province by one-half. Nor do we forget that the province of Santiago was admittedly the most difficult to govern. Gen. Wood administered the affairs of that province in a manner eliciting the plaudits of the civilized world. He did not trundle to faction nor to his own countrymen, but he gained the love and confidence of the entire community by his splendid work, his fearless and impartial management of affairs and his evident desire to give the Cubans every opportunity to prove themselves worthy of self-government."

### ONE VOTE WORTH \$20,000.

The Montana Speaker Alleges That He Was Offered That Amount to Support Clark.

Henry G. Stiff, speaker of the Montana House of Representatives, testified before the Senate committee on privileges and elections Saturday, that A. B. Cook, former State auditor, had offered him \$20,000 to vote for William A. Clark for United States Senator. "I made no definite reply," said Stiff, "because I wanted to further investigate what was going on. I told him that if Mr. Clark really wanted to secure my vote he could afford to pay more than \$20,000, and suggested \$50,000, saying that I did not want this to be understood as an offer on my part."

Frederick Whiteside, a Montana State Senator, testified that he had been approached in the interest of Clark's candidacy by John S. Neill, John B. Wellcome and Charles W. Clark, a son of the Senator. He had co-operated with the supporters of Mr. Clark for the purpose of exposing the corrupt methods which he was satisfied were being used to secure Clark's election. He exhibited a list of the members of the Legislature whom Mr. Wellcome and Senator Clark's son had requested him to see. They told him they were willing to pay \$10,000 for any Democratic vote, and more for the vote of J. T. Anderson, of Meagher county.

### National Park at Atlanta.

The movement looking to the establishment of a National military park on ground made historic by the battle of Atlanta and other engagements in that vicinity during the civil war, has been given an impetus by letters from many prominent men indorsing the plan. Ex-President Harrison writes:

"The military incidents connected with the investment and ultimate capture of Atlanta are certainly worthy of commemoration, and I should be glad to see your project succeed."

During the Atlanta campaign, Gen. Harrison was colonel commanding the First brigade, Third division of the Twentieth army corps. He took part in all three battles around Atlanta. Letters of indorsement have also been received from Maj. Gen. Daniel Butterfield, of New York, Gen. Coburn, Col. Orland Smith, and Maj. Goodspeed.

### Home From Alaska.

John N. Wright, postmaster at Nome, Alaska, has just arrived at Indianapolis, Ind. He tells many marvelous stories of the wealth of the Nome district in the extreme northern part of Alaska.

"It is the greatest placer mining district in the gold fields," says Wright. "The pay dirt extends for 35 miles along the beach. Two thousand men in six weeks took out \$4,000,000 in gold, half of which came from the creek and half from the beach. Conservative miners estimate the value of my six claims at \$35,000,000 on the beach proper, not counting the gold that may be found on parts of the claims back from the beach. My claims aggregate 800 acres."

Wright organized a company last week in New York with \$5,000,000 capital to work his claims for which he is to receive \$1,000,000 cash as a starter. He stopped at Washington, and was assured that 300 soldiers would be immediately sent to Nome in addition to those already there.

### Cubans A Pleased.

One of the secretaries, who displayed the customary reticence of the best class of Cubans in respect of giving their names for publication in connection with interviews, made the following statement:

A wonderful change seems to have come over the Cuban people during the last few weeks. It would have been impossible, on December 1, to have aroused the enthusiasm which was displayed Sunday night during the playing of "The Star Spangled Banner." Such cheers as were given for President McKinley, while the procession was passing through the streets, could not have been raised for him or for any other American a month or so ago. The change, in my opinion, is due to a disappearance of that distrustful feeling which during the greater part of last year had been gradually growing among the Cuban people.

### Chinese Murder Trust.

The police believe a Chinese high-binder trust has been formed in San Francisco, and Marysville, and that the price for the murder of an enemy has been cut from \$1,000 to \$300. Heretofore, the police say, it has been customary for each of the two high-binder societies to employ from six to twelve hatchet men, who were paid salaries and who were expected to execute any orders, even to the killing of an obnoxious merchant who refused to pay blackmail to the society.

## RESCUED FROM THE INSURGENTS.

### AMERICAN PRISONERS FREE.

The Recapture Made by Col. Hare's and Col. Howze's Forces—Sixteen Sailors Among the Number.

After a silence of several days, Gen. Otis is able to notify the war department of the complete success of the military operations in Northwest Luzon, the main object of which was the rescue of the American prisoners whom the insurgents took with them in their flight. Although Gen. Otis does not specify Lieut. Gilmore, U. S. N., by name the wording of his message is taken to mean that that officer was among the list of rescued prisoners. Gen. Otis' message is as follows:

"Manila, Jan. 5.—Colonels Hare and Howze just arrived at Vigan, Northwest Luzon, with all American prisoners. Their successful pursuit is a remarkable achievement. Generals Schwan and Wheaton now with separate columns in Cavite province. Affairs in Luzon, north of Manila, greatly improved."

The officials of the navy department have prepared the following statement of the prisoners released, subject to amendment by Admiral Watson: William Juraska, Benjamin J. Greene, Edward Burke, Geo. Daniel Powers, James Farley, Lieut. J. C. Gilmore, Wm. Walton, chief quartermaster; John Ellsworth, Lyman Paul Edwards, Paul Vandoit, Silvio Brizole, Albert Peterson, Fred Anderson, William H. Rynders, Orison W. Woodbury and Denzell G. A. Venville.

The statement thus makes it appear that the following American sailors included in the Urduaneta and Yorktown parties were killed: Cadet W. C. Wood, William Mitchell, Samuel Jones, Tilden Herbert, Arthur William Drummond, Thomas Gray, Samuel Stone, John Dillon, Charles Albert Morrissey, Ora B. McDonald, Edward J. Nygard.

### SOLDIERS BECAME INSANE.

Lost Their Minds as a Result of Service in the Philippines.

The following soldiers, declared to be insane, have been sent to Washington, D. C., from the Presidio military reservation, Cal.:

Sergeant Thomas F. Collins, Company G, Sixth infantry; Sergt. Owen H. Wisman, hospital corps; Privates Thos. F. Barry, hospital corps; Anton Barber, hospital corps; Fourth infantry; Michael Gallagher, Company C, Twelfth infantry; George M. Barton, Troop C, Fourth cavalry; Walter A. O'Neill, Battery F, Sixth artillery; Louis Ford, Company L, Fourth infantry; Emerick Mulner, Company B, Sixth infantry; David E. Young, Company A, Seventeenth infantry; Frank Thayer, Company I, Seventeenth infantry; George W. Decker, Company E, Eighteenth infantry; Joseph Hoffman, Company E, Twenty-second infantry, and George J. Nixon, Company I, Twelfth infantry.

Nearly all of these men lost their minds as a result of campaigning in the Philippines.

### Arctic Explorer Homs.

James F. McSherry, of New Kensington, Pa., is home from an adventurous trip. He crossed the Arctic circle and with 28 companions he founded Peavy, one of the outposts of civilization in Alaska, 750 miles north of the Yukon river; he penetrated the land of snows still 200 miles farther with dogs and sledges, until he had reached a respectable latitude for an Arctic explorer.

Mr. McSherry was prospecting for gold for the James Deitrick Company, of San Francisco. The party found the metal and staked the claims, which will be worked by the company as soon as the machinery can be gotten on the ground. Mr. McSherry left in May of last year. He will return in a few weeks. This time he will go to Cape Nome, where the latest gold discoveries have been made.

### Moonshine Sensation

A large distillery operated by moonshiners on the mountain near Hawley, Wayne county, Pa., has been discovered by United States secret service men. Frank Hawley was arrested by Marshal Lowery at the home of his mother-in-law at Pittston and held under \$1,000 bail. Many prominent liquor dealers of Wayne and Lackawanna counties are said to be interested in the illicit traffic and many arrests will follow.

### DROPPED DOWN A SHAFT.

A Machinist's Wild Ride of 240 Feet—Picked Up Alive.

Charles Bowden, a machinist at the United Cable plant at Greensburg, Pa., made a miraculous escape from a terrible death Tuesday night. He was, however, seriously injured and is now in a critical condition. A wild ride of 240 feet down a shaft was his thrilling experience.

A broken piece of machinery at the bottom of the mine needed attention, and in the absence of the regular engineer, Bowden concluded to lower the big cage. He lost control at the start, and down the deep hole he and the cage went at an awful pace. There being two cages in a shaft, the other moved upward at the same pace and was smashed to pieces at the mouth of the pit. The downward cage struck the bottom with awful force. Bowden was hurled to one side, bleeding and unconscious.

The crash was heard by the army of miners in the pit, and believing that an explosion had occurred, they hurried panic stricken to the shaft entrance. There Bowden was found in a terrible condition. He was picked up, and on the remnants of the cage, was, after great difficulty, conveyed to the top.

### Effects of an Earthquake

The recent earthquake was the cause of a number of strange happenings. The mud volcanoes on the desert near the Colorado river, in California, have become active after a long rest and are now spouting mud again. The natural gas wells near Yuma are also in working order since the heavy quake. They have been lighted and the glare at night can be seen for many miles.

At Moosa a number of fissures were made in the ground thirty or more feet in length.

## REVIEW OF TRADE.

Report of Failures for the Year Just Closed—The Outlook.

R. G. Dun & Co.'s "Weekly Review of Trade": Failures in 1899 were 9,993 in number, with liabilities of \$123,132,679. The last days of the year added a few to the number and some millions to the known liabilities of firms and banks which failed close to the end so that commercial defaults reached \$200,078,889, of which \$30,792,164 were in manufacturing, \$48,924,771 in trading, and \$111,322,954 in brokerage, promoting and other commercial liabilities. There is nothing unsound in the business of the great industries, but an extensive revision of prices may disappoint extreme expectations. Two ways of stimulating business are adopted. The "Iron Age" notices "transactions of magnitude in foundry iron which indicate that some sellers are willing to make concessions to secure the trade of good customers."

But the Steel and Wire Company has advanced prices of wire nails, barbed and smooth wire 25 cents. Bessemer pig is not higher than it was six weeks ago, and steel plates have declined from 310 to 225 at Philadelphia, bars at Pittsburg from 225 to 215 and sheets from 315 to 280, while the structural and rail producers have held but refused to advance their prices. Some new business is reported, but not enough as yet to indicate the tendency. In tin, after a fall from 33 to 25 cents, the price rises to 25.25 with London, and in copper 17 1/2 cents is quoted instead of 18 1/2 cents month ago. Wheat still moves very sluggishly, with small change in prices. In six months of the crop year about 90,000,000 bushels, flour included, have been exported, against 123,000,000 last year. Atlantic exports have now fallen to only 2,000,000 bushels for the week, against 5,214,440 last year, and Pacific exports were 531,225, against 614,833 last year. The price is practically unchanged, as also for corn, of which 3,923,195 bushels have been exported for the week, against 3,572,417 last year. Failures for the week have been 273 in the United States, against 243 last year, and 25 in Canada, against 24 last year.

Bradstreet's review of bank clearings for 1899 shows that the total of the United States was \$93,504,932,656, an increase of \$25,004,596,426 over the total of 1898. New York ranks first among the cities, with a total of \$20,761,791,900; Boston is second, with \$7,086,285,271, and Chicago is third, with \$6,612,313,611. The clearings for 1899 were more than double those of 1894. Philadelphia, St. Louis, Pittsburg, Baltimore, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Kansas City and Minneapolis maintain the rank held in 1898. The heaviest increase was that of 56 per cent., shown by Pittsburg. Exceptional activity in the iron trade is responsible for this gain, and increase of 32 per cent. at Cleveland.

### Blow at the Hemp Trust.

Secretary Root has taken measures to break the corner in hemp. As a result of discussing the matter with the president he has called this instruction to Major-General Otis. "There is apparently a speculative corner in hemp here. It is raising the price to the great injury of legitimate consumers. It is desirable to get the south hemp ports open as soon as practicable."

This instruction is due to the protests made by prominent cottage manufacturers and by farmers, calling attention to the fact that the opening of ports in northern Luzon to-day would afford no relief to the hemp situation and earnestly requesting that southern ports be garrisoned and opened to the trade.

In a letter written by Mr. McKlejohn, assistant secretary of war, the writer said that if the hemp now at the several ports of the Philippines were exported, it would be immediately dispatched to this country by steamships at low rates of freight and be manufactured into binder twine in sufficient time for the farmers' use.

### Railroad Boom in Hawaii

R. E. Candon, a railroad contractor of Chicago, just home from Honolulu, reports a regular railroad boom in Hawaii, and that the next year will see more railroads built than the islands now possess.

Plans laid call for the construction of 300 miles or more. The largest part of this will be built, he says, by Thomas L. Johnson and Albert Johnson, of Cleveland, Ohio, who have formed a syndicate. Their project includes several lines of electric roads in Honolulu and elsewhere on the island of Oahu. Ferry boats will ply between the terminal